

Date: November 23, 1993  
From: John Martin, OSC  
To: Director, ERB and Region 6  
Subject: TRI Container  
Catoosa, Rogers County, Oklahoma  
POLREP: 01 INVESTIGATION

## I. BACKGROUND

Site #: 7S CERCLIS No: OKD070040589  
NPL status: non-NPL Response Authority: CERCLA  
ERNS #: 206781

## II. SITUATION:

On November 6, 1993, vandals entered the TRI Container site and released the contents of a 4,000 gallon tank. Local and state officials responded to the scene and the released was secured. A contractor was used to excavate contaminated soil and consolidated on-site. Upon further investigation of the abandoned drum reconditioning facility, it was discovered that more than 5,000 drums were left on-site. While many of the drums were empty, some contained paint wastes and others contained unknown materials. Some of the drums were leaking. The situation aroused considerable media attention.

TRI Container is located at 17400 E. Young, Catoosa, OK 74015 (latitude 36°11'10" and longitude 95°47'15"). The five acre site is located in an industrial area with some residences within a quarter mile. The site is situated on high ground in a hilly and wooded terrain.

## III. ACTIONS TAKEN:

On November 8, TAT were tasked to visit the site to further evaluate the immediate threat posed by the abandoned site. Their observations included; several drums labeled "corrosive" and "flammable", six storage tanks with oily contents, several openings in the fence, and evidence that the site is frequented by trespassers. There are three unlined surface impoundments on-site with little freeboard. Most of the site's drainage appears to pass through these impoundments.

The evening of November 9, the OSC contacted the property owner via phone. He stated that the facility began operations as a drum refurbisher in 1975 and that they began manufacturing new drums in 1981. They quit refurbishing drums about 6-7 years ago and the site was abandoned about one year ago. He verbally granted EPA site access and stated that he would cooperate in any manner that he could except financially. Currently, he is going through bankruptcy proceedings.

During the week of November 15, the OSC and TAT visited the site to collect samples. Thirty samples from various areas of the

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site (drums, vat, soil, tanks, sediments, etc.) were taken for conducting the Haz Catting procedures. The Haz Cat screened and characterized each sample, which the results were used to determined analytical parameters. Sixteen samples were sent for laboratory analysis.

#### IV. FUTURE PLANS:

Pending the results of the laboratory analysis, further site characterization needs will be determined and the site will be evaluated as a potential removal action. ODEQ has written a letter requesting ERB's assistance in the abatement of the pollution found at the site.

TAT: Rick Neeley  
Status: Pending